

The Topeka State Journal.

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NO HOPE FOR US.

We Westerners Can Expect Nothing, Says Banker Moffatt.

President of the Denver First National Bank.

FROM THIS CONGRESS.

No Use to Hold a Convention of Banker

For Cleveland and Wall Street Will Only Sneer at Us.

Denver, Dec. 26.—David H. Moffatt, president of the First National Bank in this city, does not approve of the proposed convention of bankers of the Interior-Mountain Pacific coast states to discuss currency revision, a call for which has been issued by the Salt Lake chamber of commerce.

"Congress would pass our resolutions by a whim of contempt," said Mr. Moffatt. "We would be termed 'Western financiers,' and the outcome of it all would be that we had our trip to Salt Lake and our meeting there for nothing. Of course, there may be something more behind the proposals of this Salt Lake committee than appears from the letter. If so, then my opinion of the matter might be changed."

After all, however, there is no hope for a satisfactory reform of the currency (which means the resumption of the free coinage of silver) so long as the present administration is in office. Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Carlisle are unalterably opposed to the enactment of anything like a free silver law; and what they say goes with the present congress. We must look forward to the next election for our relief. We must educate our political representatives up to the point where they will demand of the next national convention of our parties the insertion of favorable currency planks. And then we must educate our legislators to study finance more and politics less."

DRAGS ON THE RESERVE.

Will Force Congress to Pass Some Sort of a Currency Measure.

Washington, Dec. 26.—With two-thirds of the statesmen at home for the holidays, not much of business could or should be talked. However, the signs grow to favor the dual passage of some currency bill. The prospects for the passage of a currency bill through the house after the holidays seem somewhat brighter than at any time since the Carlisle bill was first laid before the banking and currency committee.

Strange as it may seem, the encouragement comes from the Republican side of the house.

It is becoming evident that the Republicans are willing to support a bill that will break away from the most objectionable features of the Carlisle bill and embrace some effective means of getting the legal tender notes out of the way so that they cannot be used as a perpetual drain upon the gold reserve.

Speaker Crisp still believes a vote will be reached within a week after congress reconvenes.

Conditions cannot and will not remain as they are. Should gold disappear in the interim at the rate it is going now, there will hardly be \$8,000,000 in the gold reserve when the gavel falls at the close of the present recess. This will enforce action of some kind.

CAN DEFEAT THE BILL.

Republicans, While Democrats Divided, Can Prevent Passage of Currency Bill.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Among the few members of the house who were at the capital today looking after their mail the prevailing opinion seemed to be that the Republicans had it in their power to pass or defeat the currency bill.

Judge Culberson of Texas put it in this way: "We are like a tramp," said he, "who has been refused out of town. It does not matter much whether he goes to New York, Baltimore or Richmond; but more he must. The situation of the treasury is identical. Something must be done to relieve it. If this bill does not accomplish all it said, it will at least accomplish something."

Representative Abland, who has a free coinage substitute pending, is very doubtful of his ability to secure a record making vote upon it.

Chairman Springer has already given notice that he will make a point of order against the substitute on the ground that it is not germane.

Mr. Hand seems inclined to the opinion that the point of order will be sustained. In that event it is not sustained, however, that it is as much as the substitute will be defeated in committee of the whole that the fact will preclude the possibility of securing a record making vote on his proposition in the house.

FULL OF RAZORS.

Indications That a Man Arrested Today Is a Thief.

George Stewart, white, was arrested by the police this afternoon with a lot of razors in his possession which he was peddling about the city. He had sold one for 25 cents. The police believe he is one of the men implicated in the robbery of the East Sixth street store.

The Topeka Cash store on East Sixth street was broken into Saturday night and robbed of \$42 in money, several razors, three dozen pocket knives and six revolvers. It is supposed that there were about three thieves and that they were young men.

They looted their way in through the back door with a brace and bit.

Selling at Auction.

Sheriff Burdge is busy this afternoon selling at auction the drug stock of Dr. Barker's Topeka drug company in the Crawford opera house building. Other local druggists are buying the stock and fixtures cheap.

CLIFF HOUSE BURNED.

One of the Landmarks of the Pacific Coast is Consumed.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—The Cliff House, one of the landmarks of the coast burned last night. Two towering chimneys, the carved lion that stood guard at the stairway descending to the lower floor, charred timbers and ashes are all that remains of it. It was owned by Mayor-elect Sutro.

A million dollar structure of steel and stone which was erected on its site. The fire destroyed everything except a few souvenirs, the mirrors and easily movable furniture, the silverware, choice vintages and liquors and a part of the bar fixtures. The fire was a hidden one between ceilings and walls. It started from a defective flue and when the flames found a vent there was a rush and a roar of fire that could not be controlled.

A sharp steady breeze from the northeast drove the flames and smoke directly across the seal rocks. As the winds increased the flames sped seaward in a horizontal direction and sparks fell continuously on the breakers. The sea has lately been itself from the rocks and sought refuge in the sea.

Sutro's magnificent bath, the finest in the world, adjoins the Cliff House, and it was feared they too would be demolished. Fortunately the wind was in the opposite direction and the bath was saved.

"I am sorry, of course, that the building is burned," said Adolph Sutro. "It has been one of the landmarks of the Pacific coast and many prominent persons have been entertained there. Three of America's presidents have watched the seals sport on the rocks and each of them spent many hours on the balconies that have disappeared with the flames."

That was the first of the trip, and after him came Hayes, who thought his visit not complete without watching the moods of the Pacific from the house. The next was Harrison and he became so enamored with the place that he spent many hours on the balconies. Besides these celebrities there have been a number of titled people from Europe among them the Marquis of Lorne who when he visited San Francisco was governor general of Canada. Each carried away many mementoes of the place and they have frequently referred to it in their public utterances.

"Now it is gone and its destruction will probably hasten the erection of the proposed hotel on Point Lobos. Just when the work will begin it is impossible to tell. The hotel scheme has not been fully matured. It has been intended to build the hotel farther out on the point a few hundred feet nearer the Golden Gate, but now it may go on the site of the old Cliff house. That will depend on the size of the building."

"A hotel of very large proportions could not very well be built on the location of the house just burned, but there is room for a good sized building that will answer all purposes. A feature of the new building will be an elevator which will take the visitors from the beach up to the top of the cliff and save the climb up the steep grade."

A NEW CARNEGIE MILL.

One Employing 3,000 Men to Be Built in Ohio.

LOREIN, Ohio, Dec. 26.—General Manager Supper, of the Johnston company's steel plant at this place, is authority for the statement that on Christmas eve, a deal was closed between his company and the Carnegie Steel company, by which the latter acquires a large amount of land adjoining Black river, Lorain, opposite the Johnston plant, on which an immense steel works, employing over 3,000 men, will be erected during the coming year.

For some time past the Carnegie company has been prospecting with a view of securing the location for a steel plant on lake Erie.

LOCAL MENTION.

Charles Horne of the Topeka planing mill presented each of his eight employees with a turkey for Christmas.

W. D. Wilder, who failed to pay his dog tax, was arrested yesterday, but settled it satisfactorily to Mr. Miller this morning and was dismissed.

John Spalding, who assaulted Officer "Doc" Ward at the scene of the Matson murder the other evening, is being tried in the justice court this afternoon.

G. C. Clemens has a Christmas story in the current issue of the Advocate. It is his first effort at short story writing. It is called "Shaughat Patterson's Christmas Story."

Tom Enders and M. M. Dilon were out speeding their trotter yesterday when the police arrested them for fast driving. The case was continued till tomorrow.

At the Christmas entertainment at the Walnut Grove M. E. church, the young pastor, T. R. Thorburn, was presented with a gold watch by his official members and a silk quilt from the junior league.

F. J. Vandenberg, the Leavenworth young man who was released from the county jail on bond yesterday afternoon, says he will start a business college in Topeka. He is in Leavenworth winding up his affairs there.

Lewis Kass, who seems to be a lazy sort of a cuss, was arrested for stirring up the Christmas atmosphere by causing in a loud and boisterous manner when people refused to give him money he asked for on the street. He seemed to be an inoffensive sort of fellow and Judge Kasminger discharged him today.

Jack Myers and George Arnold, two young men who gave C. M. Robinson a Christmas beating in a stairway on Kansas avenue last night because he crowded past them, were in police court this morning and pleaded not guilty to assault. Their cases were continued till tomorrow.

A phonographic recital illustrating class work in geography will be given at the Copeland parlors this evening from 6:30 to 7:30. Prof. J. C. Hisey, of Kansas City, Mo., who conducted this feature of the educational exhibit during the World's fair, will have charge of the entertainment this evening. All are cordially invited.

ACT ILLEGALLY.

The Coroner's Jury in the Matson Case

Imagine Themselves Some Kind of High Court

And Go Into "Secret Session" Contrary to Law.

SHUT OUT SHERIFF.

County Attorney, the Reporters and Everybody Else

From Their Silly Star Chamber Proceedings.

The coroner's jury in the Matson case is still in session, and secret session at that. Some of the most learned lawyers in Topeka declare that a coroner's jury has absolutely no authority to hold a secret inquest, but nevertheless persons interested in the inquest and bringing the murderers to justice, as well as representatives of the press, are excluded. The county attorney has no representative there. The sheriff has no representative present. The coroner and the jury with that pompous importance that usually accompanies a little brief authority, voted to "go into secret session" and remain so. They also agreed that anything that transpired there should be kept secret.

Those on the jury should bear in mind that their functions are not those of a star chamber court or a Pinkerton detective force. If they are unable to state who killed Mrs. Matson, they should return a verdict of murder by unknown persons, and quit. It is the duty of the sheriff and the police, and not the coroner's jury, to do the detective work in the case. It is an unusual proceeding and even County Attorney Safford admits they are through and ought to adjourn.

The coroner's jury shows a tendency to subpoena all the residents in that part of town, although all those who are in a position to know anything that would shed light on the subject were closely questioned by the officers days ago. It is not only foolish but expensive.

A JOURNAL reporter was refused admission to the inquest, as was John M. Wilkerson, who has done more than anyone else up to this time towards solving the mystery.

S. B. Isenhardt said to a JOURNAL reporter this afternoon: "A coroner's jury has no authority or no right to go into secret session during an inquest. The only body which can is a grand jury, and the fact that this is specified indicates that no other jury can. The functions and authority of a coroner's jury are laid out in the name of a district or circuit court, and it is one of the most fundamental principles of justice and court law that all court matters shall be public."

Section 1786 of the General Statutes says in regard to the coroner's inquest being made public: "If the coroner's jury had a crime has been committed on the deceased, and name the person whom the jury believes has committed it, the inquest shall not be made public until after the arrest."

Mr. Isenhardt says regarding this case: "This section does not apply to this case. It simply means that if the coroner's jury had the name of a guilty man or a woman whom they believe to be guilty they shall have authority to suppress from the public that name until the arrest shall be made. Most certainly a coroner's inquest should be a public meeting. It is a public meeting in the law."

A. H. Vance said: "Unless there is some special provision in the statutes which expressly gives a coroner's jury the right of secret inquests, and I don't know of any such, they have no more right to go into secret session than the district court would have. An inquest is just as much a public trial as any criminal case in the county courts."

"Our sessions are secret," Coroner Bailey said.

"How did you happen to go into secret session?" asked the reporter.

"By vote of the jurors and my consent."

"Why?"

"Because we don't want anyone else present during our investigation."

"Who was examined this morning?"

"George Hightower and Nick Childs."

"What did they say?"

"I am not at liberty to tell, although it wasn't important. We have taken a pledge to secrecy."

"Do your investigations tend to confirm Sheriff Burdge's charge against Frank Nevills?"

"No, they do not. I'll say that much. We are working on entirely different lines."

The Formal Papers.

Formal papers which charge Frank Nevills or Nevills with murder in the first degree, were drawn by County Attorney Safford today, and placed in the hands of Sheriff Burdge. Nevills was taken before Justice Chesney at 11 o'clock this morning. Nevills entered no plea and the case was continued until Saturday morning.

The complaint on which Nevills is held is sworn to by Sheriff Burdge and written by County Attorney Safford in this language:

STATE OF KANSAS, ss.
Shawnee County, ss.
D. N. Burdge being duly sworn on oath says that on the day of December, 1894, Frank Nevills did then and there unlawfully, feloniously and deliberately premeditatedly slay and murder one Alameda D. Matson; and he the said Alameda D. Matson; and he the

said Frank Nevills with said slung-shot and said Alameda D. Matson then and there unlawfully, feloniously and of his premeditated malice aforethought, did kill and murder, contrary to the statute in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the state of Kansas.

More Chases.

Another discovery was made by the officers in the Matson case which may be of value. In the barn back of the victim's house was discovered a pile of bloody rags. They are supposed to be the rags used by the murderers when they wiped the blood from their hands and from the axe. Another slung-shot, different in its construction from the first one, was also found. This one is merely three links of heavy chain with a rope handle like the first. This tends also to confirm the theory that there were two murderers instead of one, and has a tendency to explode the statements of George Knight, the deaf mute, who claims he saw the men run away. They evidently went to the barn first.

Sheriff Skinner of Winfield, Sumner county, arrived in Topeka today. He is acquainted with Nevills of old and thinks he is none too good for the crime. He says Nevills has one wife in Winfield, and even if he can't be convicted of murder the officers can make it pretty hot for him on the charge of bigamy.

A lawyer who has watched the case with a great deal of interest, thinks George Knight, the mute, ought to be arrested. "He seems to know too much about the case," he says. "If he saw the murder, as he claims, he would have had no trouble making it known. If he couldn't lead the police down there he could at least have aroused the neighborhood. The fact that he was there that time of night and turned up before the body had been discovered an hour looks suspicious to me. Wiser murderers than he have taken the same course, and instead of keeping quiet, overdo the thing in telling how somebody else did it. I am impressed with the idea that Knight ought to be locked up and the places where he stays thoroughly searched."

At any rate the locking up of Knight might cure him of his foolishness.

ON ANOTHER TRAIL.

The Story That Matson Has Been In Topeka, Late, Bores Up Again.

Mr. F. D. Mason of Adrian, Michigan, a half brother of Mrs. Matson, who is here looking after her interest, went to Topeka this afternoon. A Mr. Bean of Detroit, a friend of Mr. Mason, who is an attorney and has been visiting at Lawrence, came to Topeka today to assist in tracing the murderers.

Mr. Bean is much worked up over the statements of two colored men before the coroner's jury this morning. Nick Childs and George Hightower swore positively that they are acquainted with Albert Matson and that they saw him in Topeka and shook hands with him within a few days of the time the murder was committed.

If this story is proved true, which is doubtful, it, of course, relieves the colored men at present suspected from the suspicion of the murder. The circulation of the story that Matson was seen here may be to save Nevills and others.

IN SPIKE OF ARBITRATION.

The Massillon Miners Quit Work and All May Strike.

MASSILLON, O., Dec. 26.—The miners employed at the Anderson mines have declined the rate of 60 cents per ton fixed by the arbitration committee and are idle today. It is thought all the miners in the Massillon district will soon cease work.

JOHN MURKIN A SOCIALIST.

The New Read of the Federation of Labor Advances Social Ideas.

MASSILLON, O., Dec. 26.—John McBride, chosen to succeed Samuel Gompers as president of the American Federation of Labor, is home for the holidays. On the second Tuesday of February Mr. McBride will drop the presidency of the United Mine Workers. His new office begins in January. After visiting New York to consult with the executive council he will remove the Federation headquarters to Indianapolis.

In a talk with a correspondent today Mr. McBride touched upon the subject of wealth and its responsibilities. He said:

"When I say that I am a limited socialist I only say what every citizen of the country must say, for we have now a limited socialism, and it is simply a question of opinion how far it should extend. For instance, I believe that the government should take up and operate all lines of transportation and take charge of such productions as the people may elect from time to time. That leaves the opening broad enough to admit or exclude anything."

Speaking of labor Mr. McBride talked entertainingly. "I have been president of the United Mine Workers for three years," he said, "and in that period the membership has grown from 13,000 to 30,000. Of the present membership over 30,000 are paying members. By this I mean they meet the per capita assessment of 10 cents a month. The others would do so, but they are simply unable to spare the money."

"There are 192,000 bituminous miners in the country, and I think we have demonstrated that they act as a unit when occasion requires. At the present time the question of their existence is uppermost, and the next thing to be done is take what can be obtained, and wait until there comes an opening for a successful movement."

A MIDNIGHT CEREMONY.

That of the Scottish Rite, Masons to be Held Over Frank Drummond.

There will be an interesting ceremony at the Masonic hall at midnight tonight. The ceremony of the Scottish Rite Masons will be held at that hour over the body of the late Frank Drummond by the Knight of Kadosh.

These ceremonies are full of interest among the Masons. They are said to be impressive and in the large cities attract a great deal of attention.

All Master Masons and their immediate families will be admitted to the hall.

The funeral proper will take place from the Congregational church tomorrow afternoon. The remains will be buried in the Topeka cemetery.

POPLIST PLANS.

Conference of Leaders at St. Louis Will Be Interesting.

Three Diverse Elements Will Contend for Recognition.

SINGLE SILVER PLANK.

One Favors This, Another Greenbacks With Other Remedies.

Socialists Will Insist on Plank Ten or Secede.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—There was a large gathering of local leaders of the People's Party today to consider attending the national conference of the leading members of that organization which will be held in St. Louis on Friday and Saturday. The conference promises to be one of the liveliest political events of the season and as a consequence there will be a large Chicago contingent present. Taking the Chicago contingent as a basis of representation the conference will be participated in by several hundred leading members of the party, coming from nearly every state in the union.

Among the leaders who have signified their intention of being present are Senator Effor and Jerry Simpson of Kansas, Chairman Maxwell of the Illinois state central committee, Congressman Lafe Pence of Colorado, Senator Kyle of Dakota, George Schilling of Milwaukee, Governor Lewelling of Kansas, Tom Watson of Georgia and others prominent in Populist politics. The conference may result in some radical changes in the party programme.

Three diverse elements will, it is expected, be found in the conference, and each will seek to make its own views a part of the party creed in the next national campaign. The conference being an unofficial one, cannot formulate a platform or declaration of principles, but its deliberations and conclusions will doubtless have great weight and will have much to do with shaping the future course of the party.

There is first a large and prominent element in the party headed by Chairman Taubeneck himself, which favors the concentration of the party strength upon a single plank, on silver. It is argued that the Omaha platform was too scattering; that it advocated too many reforms at once to be effective and that a more effective contest would be waged on a single issue.

The advocates of a solitary plank argue that it would bring all the western, mountain and pacific states under the Populist banner, and also capture many of the southern states. This idea will be advocated by western delegates and many of those from the south.

There is another element which, while as strongly in favor of free silver as the former faction, is inclined to urge other measures of relief as well. This element desires the adoption of a national platform taking four essential planks—money, land, transportation, taxation. The first plank embodies the free silver declaration and also demands the creation of a greenback currency as well. Its demands as to land and transportation are those at present made by existing platforms, while the income tax will be demanded and the single taxers find room for their favorite theory.

The Socialistic group will form the third element. It will in fact be a Chicago production and will be backed by the flower of Chicago Socialism. This element has but one demand, that it will insist upon. That is plank ten. In other words, if the Populist party expects aid and comfort of the Socialists it must declare that all means of production and distribution of commodities must belong to the people.

The champions of plank 10 will be willing to support free silver or will accept the views of the second element. Provided plank 10 is also recognized. It is to be seen that the socialistic group stands in a position to aid either of the other factions in consideration of the recognition of its own beloved principle.

The outcome is one which will be awaited with interest. If plank 10 is adopted, it is feared that the socialists will in all probability sever their connection with the party.

COXEY IS READY.

He Will Urge the Adoption of His Bill By Populists at St. Louis.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Jacob Coxe, as buoyantly enthusiastic for his money scheme as in the days when he proudly marched at the head of his army, arrived at the Auditorium today. He will remain in Chicago until tonight when he goes to St. Louis to urge the adoption of his bill as a Populist measure by the conference of Populist leaders which will convene there this week.

Carl Browne has gone on to agitate the matter in advance of the conference. He will present a long preamble reciting the inadequacy of the present monetary system, followed by a resolution which reads: "That we are in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 and the Coxe non-interest bearing bond plan."

AGAINST A ONE PLANK PLATFORM.

Kansas Populists Going to St. Louis Want the Omaha Platform.

A party consisting of Dr. S. McLellan, H. A. Heath, S. H. Salder, J. W. Breidenthal and J. J. Close will leave tomorrow for St. Louis to attend the conference of Populist leaders which takes place in that city on the 28th.

It is understood that the Kansas representatives will resist any attempt to modify any of the demands of the Omaha platform. It has not been announced that the intention is to throw over all the demands except the "free silver" clause,

but that is understood to be the purpose of the meeting.

It is also thought by the leading Populists that Senator Stewart of Nevada is at the bottom of the scheme, and he is planning to capture the nomination of the new party for president in 1896.

Dr. McLellan said today to a JOURNAL reporter: "I am of the opinion that no change will be made in the platform. The conference can only advise. Only a convention can amend a platform, but I do not think a change will be recommended. The people and reform press of the country are almost unanimous against the idea of making free silver the only issue. I have only heard of three papers in favor of such a scheme and two of them were in Colorado."

"Chairman Taubeneck has come out plainly with a statement that he is not in favor of changing the platform, but if he is not he was very careless in the use of words in his address. He has undoubtedly learned that the sentiment is overwhelmingly against such a step."

MAY BE A YEAR FOR DEBS.

The Prospects for the Labor Leader Are Not Bright.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Eugene Debs, the head of the American Railway union, and his companions were much pleased that they were not compelled to spend their Christmas in jail, owing to the ruling of Judge Woods.

The date for the beginning of the sentence imposed by Judge Woods for contempt of court was postponed until Jan. 8. When the sentence does begin it may mean a year instead of six months for Debs.

Sentences in the case of the United States and that of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad were separated and made cumulative instead of concurrent and appeals will be taken to the United States supreme court in both cases.

"Well, how do you like the prospect of possibly a year instead of six months in jail?" Mr. Debs was asked.

"I will tell you how we regard that," replied Mr. Debs with earnestness. "Our lawyers tell us that there is a very good chance to upset the rulings of the court below in the supreme court. Now we are just like patients in the hands of physicians; one never stops to question the judgment of his doctor—he does just as he is told. There are very grave questions involved in this matter, questions that do not concern us alone, but the whole world of labor in this country. We are not to be considered any more than a feather—our freedom or liberty does not count; we are merely instruments through which a great question of right is to be solved. If we should not raise these questions, and if it should come at some future time that the rulings of the court under which we are sentenced were not correct or legal, then the whole world of labor would have to forgo having these questions settled now. We take the chances of a trial, who labor makes a difference what may become of us—it is the questions involved that are momentous."

WOODS MADE OUT A SCAMP.

Gov. Alford Doesn't Seem to Respect the Verdict in This Case.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 26.—Speaking of Judge Woods' decision in the case of Debs et al., Governor Alford, who is staying here, said to an interviewer: "Everybody who knew anything about the history of Judge Woods was not surprised. You can remember there was opposition to his confirmation in the senate because he was then under a cloud. He attracted the attention of the American people as a judge by recusing Dudley and some others of 'blocks-of-five' fame from the penitentiary. They had been indicted for debauching the officers of the militia in order to carry the election for Harrison and were about to be sent to the penitentiary."

"Harrison attributed his victory to the Lord, and Judge Woods evidently felt that to permit Dudley to go to the penitentiary under these circumstances would be a reflection on the Lord, so he went out of his way, and in violation of all laws saved him. He has been engaged in various enterprises since, as a judge, that look very queer to an every-day man."

"This thing of shielding big criminals and big corporations from the sword of justice and then delivering a homily of 25,000 words in length on the majesty of the law simply shows the extraordinary ability and versatility of the man."

"In the Debs matter the corporations wanted Debs sent to jail, and it didn't make any difference what the facts were, or what the law was; everybody who knew Woods' history was satisfied they would get what they wanted."

A CHARITY BALL.

Dr. Hamilton Will Give One at His Hall Next Month.

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